

over the years, whereas he has successfully coached numerous Olympic and champion athletes, whereas he is an inspiration for recreational runners and a role model for all, whereas he represents Alamosa nationally and internationally as an athletic ambassador, now therefore, I, Charles J. Griego, Mayor Pro Tem of Alamosa, Colorado, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim August 12, 2000, as Dr. Joe I. Vigil Day in the City of Alamosa, Colorado."

As Joe celebrates leaving Adams State College and Alamosa, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you and congratulations on behalf of the United States Congress. In every sense, Joe is a great coach who deserves praise and admiration from all of us. I wish him the best of luck as he continues to pursue his coaching career in Green Valley, Arizona. Joe is one of the nation's best and someone we can all be proud of.

My thanks to him for a job well done.

HONORING ART FURUYA

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Art Furuya, formerly of Nashville, Illinois. While he may no longer reside in my district, there is a valuable lesson we can learn from his story.

When most 17 year olds think of cars, proms and graduation, Art's thoughts turned to defending his country. You see, December 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked, was Art's birthday. The following Monday, Art, who is of Japanese descent, went to enlist in the war effort. He tried to enlist in the Army, Navy and Marines, but none would take him because of his Japanese heritage.

He and his family were separated and were victims of the internment camps. Surprisingly, after suffering that great injustice, the one thing that never left his heart was his love of America.

After leaving the camp, he was finally allowed to enter the Army in 1943 as part of the heavy weapons battalion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team along with many Japanese Americans. The fact that he had little training and did not know how to put up a tent made little difference to Art. He was eager to serve and fight for the land he loved.

The 442nd may be best known for their "Go For Broke" mantra when they were rescuing about 200 fellow soldiers of the 141st Regiment of the 36th Division. Eight hundred men died in that rescue effort. His company started with 150 men and ended up with 16 after that fateful battle. Art won 2 Purple Hearts for his service.

The 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Combat team, in which Art served, gained a total of 18,143 individual decorations, 9,486 Purple Hearts, and 560 Silver Stars and 7 Presidential Unit Citations. Not a bad record for a group of men that were originally unwanted and deemed suspicious by others.

There has been much written about the "Greatest Generation"—those World War II vets who set forth and saved the world. I don't know if we as a nation can adequately give

thanks for their blood, sweat and sacrifice. In many respects, Art and his comrades symbolize the unyielding human spirit—overcoming any obstacle, no matter how difficult, without the expressed purpose of gaining fame or glory. They were just doing their duty. No more. No less.

To Art Furuya, his comrades in his battalion and to those that never made it home from this great war, you have earned this soldier's respect. Thank you for all your service.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING UNITED STATES-INDIA RELATIONS

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I welcome Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India—the Prime Minister of a key strategic ally of the United States and an important partner in the struggle against international terrorism. Mr. Vajpayee's government has achieved significant economic development, modernization, and consolidation of democracy in India. These accomplishments are all the more impressive when examined in the context of the terrorism India has to cope with on a daily basis. It is so easy for any government to seize on such a threat in order to centralize power at the expense of personal freedoms. It is so tempting to cite foreign security threats in order to legitimize a military coup. However, New Delhi has elected to fight terrorism and develop India without infringing on the population's democratic rights and freedoms. And this is a major, yet unheralded, triumph of both Mr. Vajpayee's government and the people of India.

To comprehend India's recent achievements one must take a closer look at the terrorist threat posed to India.

Despite undeniable achievements of the Indian security forces, the situation in Kashmir continues to deteriorate. The forces used against India now include a combination of Kashmiri fighters and a growing number of foreign operatives.

The terrorist threat to India goes beyond the disputed Kashmir. Only a couple of weeks ago, Abu Abdul Aziz, one of the key Pakistani-sponsored Islamist leaders publicly defined the ultimate objectives of the Kashmiri Jihad: "Our destination is not Kashmir. Our aim is that all of India be converted into a Muslim state." There was not a word of recrimination or even disassociation from Islamabad.

In examining India's struggle against terrorism, one must remember the unique geo-strategic importance of the Indian sub-continent. North-west India, including Kashmir, is located at the edge of the Arc of Crisis. Stretching from the Caucasus in west, through Central Asia to northern India and the north-western Chinese province of Xinjiang, the Arc of Crisis is emerging as the world's next primary reserves of oil and gas—the Persian Gulf of the 21st Century. The Arc of Crisis is also the continental gateway to China and the Far East. Long term stability in the Arc of Crisis is therefore an indispensable interest of the United States. The long and deep coast-line of the Indian subcontinent are crucial for the stability and safety of the maritime commercial

traffic in the Indian Ocean—mainly between Europe, the Persian Gulf and East Asia. The safety of maritime commerce in the Indian Ocean, as well as the oil fields of the nearby South China Sea, are also indispensable interests of the United States and the West. A friendly India is the key to furthering these U.S. interests.

Hence, India is a bulwark of regional stability and consequently a guardian of crucial strategic and economic interests of the United States and the entire West. The national interest of the United States is to have a strong, democratic and prosperous India as an ally and a partner. India can stabilize the volatile yet crucial region—ensuring that the strategic and economic interests of the U.S.-led West are furthered and not infringed upon. Moreover, the rapid economic development growth of India makes it a most promising trade partner with the United States. For example, India's burgeoning software-developing industry is a major contributor to the U.S. computer industry. In the era of growing globalization, the U.S. can and should benefit from the Indian economic surge. However, to fully realize its potential, India must be free of subversion and terrorism.

Therefore, the terrorism waged against India harm the national security and economic interests of the United States. Ultimately, a strong, democratic, and economically viable India serves and furthers the U.S. national interest. Hence the U.S. should stand side-by-side with India and cooperate in its struggle against terrorism. The U.S. should help the democratic government in New Delhi to continue and maintain the delicate balance between resolutely fighting terrorism and preserving democracy, civil rights and a rule of law for all. So far, the record of Mr. Vajpayee's Government has been both impressive and improving. The United States should applaud India for its reform efforts in the face of terrorism.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALBERT AUGUST "GUS" KARLE

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to honor Mr. Albert August "Gus" Karle. Mr. Karle, who has served the Waycross-Ware County community for forty-five years, has decided to step down from his position as president of the Waycross-Ware County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Karle has been a dedicated member of the Waycross-Ware County community for many years. He has worked in the private sector for forty-one years, thirty-six years for the railroad, before retiring and dedicating his time to the Waycross civic arena. Mr. Karle has unselfishly assisted the YMCA, the Downtown Waycross Development Authority, and the Waycross-Ware County Chamber of Commerce, where he served as President for five years before retiring in June of 2000.

The Waycross-Ware county community and myself are proud of Mr. Karle's service and dedication. His leadership and prior activity in both the local civic and church affairs will be greatly missed but certainly not forgotten.